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C L A R E R U R A L D I S T R I C T

in the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year

1 9 6 6

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health for the Rural
District of Clare, in the County of West
Suffolk, for the year ended 31st December,
1966

Public Health Department,
Severals House,
Newmarket.

July, 1967.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Clare Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1966.

The Birth Rate continued to be appreciably above that for the country as a whole. This trend, which was first evident last year, seems partly accounted for by the limited influx of young married people into the district.

The Death Rate was less than that for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate was much lower than that for England and Wales but, based as it was on very low figures, this fact had no statistical significance.

The incidence of Infectious Disease continued to be low.

I wish to express my appreciation of the help afforded me in compiling the Report by the Clerk of the Council and the Chief Public Health Inspector.

My thanks are also offered to the Chairman and all members of the Public Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. FARNILL MORGAN

Medical Officer of Health

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets throughout the report relate to the previous year).

Area of the District	(49,360 acres)	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	(24)	24
Rateable Value	(£208,961)	£227,699
Sum represented by Penny Rate	(£834)	£ 854
Number of inhabited houses	(3,130)	3,226
Number of empty houses	(205)	213
Population Census 1961	(8815)	-
Population Registrar's Estimate June 1965	9750	June 1966 10,100

2. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

- (a) Medical Officer of Health, who also serves other districts.
- (b) Senior Public Health Inspector :- Mr. H.A. Smith (appointed November 1944 who also holds the office of Engineer and Surveyor)

Additional Public Health Inspector :- Mr. W.J. Black (appointed September 1965) who also holds the appointment of Building Inspector.
- (c) Meat Inspection :- Mr. T. Burdus (Public Health Inspector)
Senior Meat Inspector,
Mr. I. MacMillan - Senior and six authorised officers are appointed for the purpose of full time meat inspection at The Little Wratting Abattoir.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	76	94	170 (168)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	6	5	11 (8)
				Total	82	99	181 (176)

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	17.9	(18.1)
Corrected birth rate, (Comp. factor 1.13)	..	..	..	..	20.2	(20.4)
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	17.7	(18.0)
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	6.1	(4.5)

STILL BIRTHS

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	1	-
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-
			Total	1	-	1 (1)

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	5.5	(5.6)
" " " "	"	"	"	15.4	(15.7)

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	77	94	171 (169)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	6	5	11 (8)
			Total	83	99	182 (177)

DEATHS

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Death rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	50	46	96 (124)
Corrected death rate (Comp. factor 0.86)	..	..	..	..	..	9.5 (12.7)
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	8.2 (11.2)

INFANT MORTALITY - Deaths of infants under one year of age

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	1	-	1 (4)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	-	-	- (-)
			Total	1	-	1 (4)

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	5.5	(22.7)
" " " "	"	"	"	"	19.0	(19.0)
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legit. live births	..	..	..	..	5.9	(23.8)
Illegitimate " " " illegit. "	..	..	..	..	-	(-)

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	5.5	(11.4)
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EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	5.5.	(5.7)
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PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths					10.9	(11.3)
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MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of deaths (including abortion)	-	(-)
Death rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	(-)

RATES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Adjusted birth rates	17.7	16.8	16.1	16.0	16.4	16.5	20.4	20.2
Adjusted death rates	10.9	9.1	10.4	9.0	10.3	10.4	11.2	8.2

4. CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (all forms)	-	-	- (1)
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1 (-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	- (2)
Cancer (all types)	11	8	19 (23)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1 (2)
Diabetes	-	-	- (1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	8	13 (10)
Heart disease (all forms)	13	14	27 (39)
Other circulatory disease	3	3	6 (7)
Influenza	-	-	- (1)
Pneumonia	3	4	7 (6)
Bronchitis	1	1	2 (5)
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1 (1)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1 (1)
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1 (-)
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	-	- (2)
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1 (-)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10 (13)
Congenital malformations	-	-	- (2)
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2 (2)
All other accidents	1	2	3 (5)
Suicide	1	-	1 (1)
	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 46	<hr/> 96
			(124)

5. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	- (15)
Whooping Cough	-	-	- (4)
Measles	39	34	73 (71)
Dysentery	2	-	2 (-)
Erysipelas	1	-	1 (-)
	<hr/> 42	<hr/> 34	<hr/> 76 (90)

6. TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
1. Cases at commencement 1966	18	6	1	3	28
2. First notified during 1966	3	-	-	-	3
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by Transfer	2	-	-	-	2
5. Cases removed	1	1	-	1	3
6. Remaining at 31st December 1966	22	5	1	2	30

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY YOUR SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. WATER SUPPLIES

Mains water is supplied to your area by The West Suffolk Water Board and has been satisfactory in quantity and quality as evidenced from Bacteriological examinations and chemical analysis.

It is not possible to say how many houses are receiving mains water supplied direct to the houses and those receiving a standpipe supply, but at the end of last year the percentages were 83 and 17 respectively. Improvements to houses are gradually reducing this number.

About 100 occupied houses have their own means of water supply and here again this number is being reduced yearly.

At the end of the year the number of occupied dwellings was 3226 and 213 unoccupied.

B. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Village Sewerage Schemes are now installed as follows :-

CLARE AND CAVENDISH. Sewage is pumped from both centres to treatment works situated about one half-mile East of Clare and installed in 1956 to cater for a population of 2,400.

New housing and that pending in both parishes necessitated The Council asking for Ministry loan sanction to extend the works capacity, lay sewers in the Snow Hill area of Clare and drain also Poslingford and Chilton Street.

The ultimate works capacity envisaged was for 6,000 population which was given Ministry approval, but the sewerage of Poslingford and Chilton Street was not however given consent in view of the general economic situation. The Council should not forget that nuisances exist in both these areas from sewage flowing to and stagnating in ditches.

KEDINGTON AND GREAT WRATTING. Both villages have main drainage with disposal works built in 1963 about one half-mile East of Kedington. They are designed to treat sewage from a population of 2,100 and are producing a satisfactory effluent.

HUNDON. This village was seweraged and works came into use in 1964. They can treat sewage from a population of 600, and are producing a satisfactory final effluent.

STOKE-BY-CLARE. Effluent results continue to be satisfactory from these disposal works completed in 1964 to serve a population of up to 730.

WITHERSFIELD. This village sewerage scheme was completed during the year. Disposal works which are situated about 500 yards South of the village and adjoining the Stour Brook are designed for a population of up to 600. Final effluent results are satisfactory.

Village Sewerage Schemes are in progress as follows :-

WICKHAMBROOK. The scheme is well advanced and should be in operation during the early part of 1967. Disposal works are situated at 'The Duddery' and are designed to accommodate sewage from the adjoining village of Cowlinge. Plans for Cowlinge are prepared but the high cost per existing house has necessitated The Council deferring submission of the scheme to The Ministry for consideration.

LIDGATE AND OUSDEN. The laying of sewers and building of disposal works is well advanced here also. Sewage from Ousden is to be pumped to a central works site between the two villages. Main drainage will be available early 1967.

GREAT AND LITTLE BRADLEY AND GREAT AND LITTLE THURLOW. Laying of sewers and building of a central works is now proceeding. It is anticipated that main drainage will be available late 1967.

WIXOE. A scheme to sewer the Church area commenced in April. Work should be completed early 1967.

PROPOSED VILLAGE SCHEMES

Last year the Council accepted a proposal to provide main drainage in the Villages of Hawkedon, Stansfield, Denston and Stradishall. The scheme also included for a sewer to be laid to Wickham Street and to serve your Clopton Council and nearby houses. Financial considerations are being given to these proposals.

The Council's attention is drawn to the increase in the volume of sewage discharging into ditches in these Parishes, and difficulty experienced by householders in solving this problem or indeed in obtaining consents to install drainage systems by way of septic tanks discharging to land known to be of clay subsoil.

BARNARDISTON. Discussions have proceeded regarding the possibility of sewerering this village centre where there is a persistent roadside ditch nuisance from sewage discharge. A decision on further house building in the village will determine the extent of any proposed sewerage scheme. It is hoped that next year The Council will make every effort to either install a village scheme or alleviate the present drainage problem by the building of a small disposal works to serve The Greys Glebe area now needing immediate attention.

MAINTENANCE OF SEWERS AND DISPOSAL WORKS

A mobile gang of six employees are engaged upon this work. They also maintain some 15 small Council House site works, and are responsible for grass cutting on Council House sites. It is unfortunate that this gang is depleted in number each week whilst assisting with the Refuse Collection service. It causes disruption of the sewerage maintenance rota, inability to give required attention to works and pumps, longer working hours and general dissatisfaction amongst employees.

C. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

A fortnightly kerbside collection of dust bins continued throughout the year. It was decided to operate a weekly collection but delay in delivery of an additional vehicle prevented this. The weekly collection scheme should materialise early next year.

Collection of waste paper continues with the normal refuse 'round' and it is sold unbaled.

An amount of trade refuse is collected in Clare, upon pre-payment by Collectors.

The number of houses from which refuse is collected is steadily growing, the volume is accordingly increasing although there would appear to be a reduction in weight of refuse. It is estimated that 2,700 tons was collected and disposed of during the year, which is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. below the Country average per 1,000 population. It may well be that the weekly

collection will increase this tonnage. Several complaints have been received, particularly from 'new-comers' to the area and also aged people, regarding the kerbside collection. They feel that this is unhygienic, out-dated, and the aged, in majority, rely upon neighbours to carry bins.

You have two quarries into which refuse is being tipped. These are at Kedington and Denston, and leasing of a further quarry at Lidgate is being discussed. It is estimated that they will be filled up within the next four to five years and thoughts are now being given to alternative methods of treatment and disposal which will be conveyed to The Council in due course.

Septic tanks on Council house estates are cleaned out by Contract and during the year 338 tanks of private houses were cleared at a reduced rate of 10/- per load of 750 gallons.

The Contractors arrange for their own means of disposal, very often giving rise to complaints. This will be eliminated when the Clare Sewage Disposal works are enlarged, as these make provision for treatment of this septic sewage.

D. INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made by the Department during the year under various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

Improvement grants	276
Housing Defects and Nuisances	39
Housing Act	46
Drainage Alterations and Building Regulations	419
Housing Maintenance	104
Sewage Disposal	128
Factory Acts	20
Factory Outworkers	4
Infectious Diseases	14
Verminous Premises and Insect infestations	43
Refuse Collection and Disposal	65
Caravans	24
Rodent Control	169
Petroleum Act	24
Slaughterhouse and Knackers Yard	106
Food and Meat Inspection	16
Water Supply	10
Other Matters	56
Town and Country Planning	130
Public Health Nuisances	61
Food Premises	33
Offices and Shops	38
Total visits	1825

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements to private houses have continued steadily both with and without grant aid.

Since the grant aided scheme commenced 415 houses have been modernised by way of Discretionary Grants and 124 by Standard Grants.

PRE-WAR COUNCIL HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

This scheme continues with Ministry grant aid. 234 houses have been provided with modern sanitary conveniences, 8 are completed and awaiting drainage connections to main sewers now being laid, and 14 are in progress. Upon completion all your Council Houses will have modern conveniences.

At the end of the year a total of 773 dwellings had been improved with the assistance of grants.

This represents 22.5 per cent of the total number of houses in the area.

E. PROCEDURE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Housing complaints investigated	18
Informal notices sent to Owners	18
Complaints abated	18
Houses rendered fit after informal action	18
Statutory notices served	Nil
Prosecutions	Nil

PROCEDURE UNDER THE HOUSING ACT 1957

Houses on which demolition orders were made	6
Houses on which Closing Orders were made	Nil
Houses demolished by Owners	Nil
Undertakings to make fit accepted	Nil
Houses made fit	Nil

NEW HOUSING AND HOUSING PROGRESS

PARISH	By the Council Houses	Council Bungalows	By Private Enterprise
Clare		3	29
Cavendish	2	3	13
Hundon			23
Kedington	2		84
Ousden			1
Stansfield			4
Stradishall			1
Stoke-by-Clare			2
Lt. Thurlow			2
Wickham Brook			1
Withersfield			4
Wixoe		4	
Totals	4	10	164

At the end of the year the Council owned 268 pre-war dwellings and 433 post-war, and 35 were under construction (including 23 flats).

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the area.

CARAVANS

There are a number of individual caravans in the area controlled by an annual consent under the Town and Country Planning Act and every effort is made to see that essential services are available to safe-guard the health of the occupants

No licences are in being under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

PET SHOPS AND BOARDING KENNELS

There are none in the area.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

No formal action was called for under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

NOISE ABATEMENT

There was no call for action under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The number of premises registered at the end of the year was :-

Offices	6
Retail shops	14
Fuel storage depots	1
Wholesale shops and .	
Warehouses	1
	<hr/>
	22
	<hr/>

Some premises do not come within the scope of the Act and there may be others not registered which will be noted upon inspection proceeding. Some minor offences have been found and rectified.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

This Act came into operation early in 1964 and provides for licensing annually of boarding establishments for cats and dogs. Qualifications in the Act appear to exempt the one or two establishments in your area where such animals are known to be kept, and accordingly there are no licensed establishments.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

There are 79 licensed petrol storage installations in the area.

One new licence was granted during the year.

F. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises in the area

There are 94 food premises in the area, the majority being general grocers, hotels and public houses.

Inspections reveal a generally acceptable hygiene standard including mobile food vans which are increasing in number.

Hotels, Inns, Cafes and Restaurants	51
General Stores	33
Bakeries	3
Butchers Shops	5
Greengrocers	1
Fish Shops	1

No ice cream is manufactured in the area and the following premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of pre-packed ice cream :-

General Stores and Shops ..	26
Public Houses	4

Offensive Trades

There is one licensed establishment at the Little Wratting Abattoir for the trades of Blood Drying, Fat Melting and Rendering, and Gut Scraping.

Licensed Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards

There is one licensed slaughterhouse and one Knackers Yard in the area. Humane methods of slaughtering are used.

Licensed Slaughtermen

There are 58 licensed slughtermen. 11 new licences were granted during the year.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	Nil	Nil	371,270	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	1,777	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	59,946	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	Nil	Nil	16	
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	4	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	12,457	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	3.3	
<u>Cysticercosis:</u> There were no cases during the year				

The bulk of the rejected meat is purchased by a contractor (outside your District) and processed into animal food, fertilizers, glues, greases etc.

G. FACTORIES ACT 1961

I. Inspections

Part 1 of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	17	-	-
(iii) Other premises where Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	24	18	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - NIL

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Number of Outworkers :-

Making of wearing apparel	- 15
Firework base assembly	- 15

